

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJ: SUPREME SOVIET LEADER COMMENTS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 13416

1. MEETING NOVEMBER 19 WITH DELEGATION OF AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS, ALEKSEY SHITIKOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET, CHARACTERIZED U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AS "WARM," BUT SAID SOME IN U.S. THOUGH IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESSURE AND TO SEEK CONCESSIONS FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

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2. ON MIDDLE EAST CRISIS SHITIKOV CLAIMED U.S. MILITARY ALERT WAS "NOT WELL THOUGHT OUT" AND THAT NOT ONLY SOVIET UNION, BUT EVEN CLOSEST U.S. ALLIES WERE SURPRISED BY IT. ALERT "PUT A SHADOW ON" POSITIVE WAY SITUATION WAS DEVELOPING AND ON BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT NOW THAT "MILITARY READINESS" WAS COMING TO AN END, RELATIONS COULD GAIN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. SHITIKOV EMPHASIZED NEED FOR ISRAEL TO VACATE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ATTACKED GOLDA MEIR FOR MAKING IT APPEAR THAT U.S. SUPPORTED CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION. USSR WAS WORKING TOWARD THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL U. N. RESOLUTIONS, AND IF "YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR PRESIDENT" DO THE SAME, ALL PROBLEMS WILL BE RESOLVED. IF NOT, "THE CONFLICT MAY REPEAT ITSELF."

3. SHITIKOV TOOK HARD LINE ON JEWISH EMIGRATION, CALLING IT A DOMESTIC MATTER WITH WHICH U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED AND WHICH HAD NO CONNECTION TO BILATERAL TRADE. SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT GIVE EXIT PERMISSION TO THOSE WHO HELD STATE SECRETS OR TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WOULD BECOME "CANNON FODDER" FOR ISRAEL. HE WAS EQUALLY HARD ON VIETNAM, BLASTING "SAIGON ADMINISTRATION" FOR CRUDELY VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENTS, AND ON CSCE BASKET THREE DISCUSSIONS, SAYING SOVIET UNION COULD NOT SIT BACK AND WATCH INVASION OF SUBVERSIVES WHO WANTED TO CORRUPT SOVIET PEOPLE WITH IDEAS WHICH WERE ALIEN AND VIOLATED SOVIET PRINCIPLES.

4. COMMENT. SHITIKOV'S REMARKS ARE SOMEWHAT LESS INTEMPERATE THAN HIS ANTI-US OUTBURST OCTOBER 26 OVER ME (REFTEL), WHICH MAY BE ANOTHER SIGN THAT SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO PUT EVENTS OF OCTOBER 24-25 BEHIND THEM. THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR SUSPECTING THAT SHITIKOV IS ENCOURAGED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF TOUGH-TALKING "LEGISLATOR." DUBS

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